

VZCZCXRO1146  
RR RUEHDBU  
DE RUEHYE #0274 0681402  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 091402Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY YEREVAN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5055  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1223  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 0551  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHDC 0026  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0279

C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 000274

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DEPT FOR EUR/CARC, EUR/SE, S/CT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/09/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [AM](#)  
SUBJECT: KURDS' PRO-OCALAN PROTEST LUKEWARM

REF: A) 06 YEREVAN 1484 B) 06 YEREVAN 1424

Classified By: CDA A. F. Godfrey for reasons 1.4 (b, d).

11. (C) About a dozen dilapidated buses bearing posters of Kurdish militant Abdullah Ocalan pulled into the capital March 9 to protest Ocalan's imprisonment. The passengers were Yezidis from villages not far from Yerevan. The National Security Service (NSS) was aware of the protest, but was unable to locate the villagers early in the day. Post's Mobile Patrol finally found them in a small square in the center of town, and reported that there were between 150 and 200 protesters. By the time poloff arrived at the scene, the falling hail was driving the Yezidis, talking and laughing, back onto their buses. Only a few relaxed policemen remained in the square as the buses steamed out of town.

12. (C) This is the first such protest in over a year. Several Yezidi experts in Yerevan have told us that previous protests have been organized by the Kurdistan Committee (a local office of the Kongra-Gel), which pays villagers a small sum to protest for Ocalan (ref A). This appears to be no exception.  
GODFREY